

County, School Tax Rates Down 10 Cents

Torrance Press-Herald

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AT OPEN HOUSE . . . A citywide variety show was staged here last week as the Torrance Recreation Department held its annual end-of-summer open house. The event, which marks the end of most summer recreation programs, featured acts from several city parks and playgrounds. These four youths, representing Paradise Park, are (from left) Max Miller, Pat Benningfield, Dennis Stackhouse, and Allan Davis. (Press-Herald Photo)

Armed Men Hit Service Station, Liquor Store

Aid for Turkey On Way

Area Citizens Answer Pleas

Torrance residents are proving they have heart.

That's the conclusion today of J. Walker Owens, general manager of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, who is presiding over a mounting stack of blankets, canned foods, and other items at the chamber offices.

The goods are destined for eastern Turkey, where devastating earthquakes which began Aug. 19 left some 80,000 people homeless and 2,500 dead.

Konya, Turkey, is one of Torrance's sister cities and a plea for help was received by the local chamber from the Ambassador of Turkey, Owens said.

The current effort to aid stricken families is a joint effort of Torrance and Santa Fe Springs, which is a sister city to Mersin, Turkey.

Owens said goods brought to the chamber offices will be flown to Turkey by the U. S. Air Force. Plans call for the shipment to leave here just after the Labor Day holiday.

Most needed items are blankets, canned goods, clothing, and medicines. Money, which the chamber will use to purchase needed goods, may be mailed to the chamber offices, 1510 Craven Ave.

Brief Case Taken From Locked Car

Clothing and a brief case were taken from his car Monday evening or early Tuesday, Fred M. O'ward Sr., 2545 W. 235th St., told police yesterday.

O'ward said he parked his car in the garage near his apartment at 5:45 p.m. Monday and locked it. He discovered the theft about 6:30 a.m. yesterday.



FOR TWO CENTS . . . Lady pilots will take over the skies above Torrance Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18, to offer scenic flights to area residents at the going rate of two cents per pound. Planning the two-day event, part of the city's annual Airport Days celebration, are Mrs. Judy Wagner of Palos Verdes Estates, Mrs. Mary Pinkney of Torrance, and Mrs. Juanita Tanger of Palos Verdes and Torrance. The women are members of the Long Beach chapter of the Ninety-Nines, an international women pilots group. (Press-Herald Photo)

Women Pilots to Provide Scenic Flights at Event

Women pilots are planning to take over the skies above Torrance on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 17 and 18, as the city observes its annual Airport Days.

The ladies, members of the Long Beach chapter of the Ninety-Nines, will take visitors to Torrance Municipal Airport aloft for the price of two cents per pound during the two-day event.

The women pilots will take their visitors on a scenic tour of the area in single-engine aircraft from sun-up to sun-down, according to Mrs. Judy Wagner of Palos Verdes Estates, chairman of the chapter.

The Ninety-Nines is an international organization for licensed women pilots and the Long Beach chapter draws its membership from the Santa Monica, South Bay, Torrance, and Long Beach areas, Mrs. Wagner explained. Members will be official hostesses for the 1967 Powder Puff Derby, which is scheduled to terminate at the Torrance Municipal Airport.

The two-cent-per-pound concession will raise funds for the 1967 air race. The group also plans to offer refreshments to add to the kitty.

A similar two-cent-per-pound event last May attracted 85,000 pounds worth of passengers, Mrs. Wagner reported. Most of the passengers were youngsters under 16 years of age, she added.

Planners Consider Dump Site

Plans to develop a rubbish disposal site on the old Torrance Sand and Gravel property south of Pacific Coast Highway will be aired before the city's Planning Commission next week.

At issue is a variance from an R-1 zone to permit the operation of fill and cover dump on the property, which includes some 85 acres.

The first public hearing on the matter is scheduled at 7 p.m. next Wednesday.

The property is located between Crenshaw Boulevard and Madison Streets and backs up to home on Winlock Drive, according to Charles Shurtle, planning director.

The request has been filed by Elizabeth Senness and Peter and Agnes Del Rey.

Trio Robs Store

Three men armed with a double-barreled shotgun and a hunting knife held up a North Torrance liquor store late last night, some 12 hours after two men hit a service station at the eastern edge of the city.

The robbers escaped with a total of \$135, Torrance police said.

Nicholas J. Geiges, 37, owner of a liquor store at 18915 S. Crenshaw Blvd., told police the first of the three men entered his store about 11:30 p.m. and purchased a bag of potato chips.

The second man took up a position near the end of the store counter, Geiges reported, as he waited on the first man.

The third suspect entered the store carrying a shotgun, leaped over the counter, and told him to "Get down, or I'll blow your brains out," Geiges said.

Geiges told officers he got down on the floor and the second man went behind the counter and emptied the cash register. As the trio left, Geiges pulled a .38-caliber revolver and fired three shots at one of the men, he said. He did not hit anyone.

POLICE SAID a hunting knife carried by one of the men was found in an alley adjoining the store.

Two men — one of them armed with a dull chrome-plated pistol — held up a service station shortly before noon yesterday and escaped with \$85.

Irwin J. Tirney, 50, owner of a service station at 22771 S. Western Ave., told police (Continued on A-2)

Higher Assessment Offsets Most Cuts

Tax rates which affect Torrance property owners were dropped by nearly 10 cents per \$100 assessed valuation yesterday by the Board of Supervisors, but the decrease is not likely to show up on too many tax bills.

Exchange Students at City Schools Selected

Three European students from Turkey, will attend West High School. She will live with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Erving and attend classes with the Erving's daughter, Leslie, a sophomore at West High.

MR. AND MRS. Clarence Janeba will be foster parents to Miss McCherly, who comes from Edinburgh, Scotland. She will attend North High School. The Janebas have two children attending North High School.

cents on the County Flood Control District rate—generally are offset by higher assessments, supervisors were told.

Total tax rate for most Torrance residents, including the Metropolitan Water District and the city's general tax levy, will be \$9.1106 for each \$100 of assessed valuation. Supervisors cut 2.59

cents from the county's general tax rate, reducing it to \$2.8891 per \$100 and set the County Flood Control District tax—a levy which affects virtually every county taxpayer—at \$0.3935 per \$100, down 1.42 cents.

The board also set the Torrance Unified School District levy at \$4.9500. Last year's total school tax was \$5.0076 per \$100.

Tax rates were computed by County Auditor Roscoe Hollinger, who said rates are computed on the basis of budgets approved by the board and by local school districts. The rates are based on the funds needed from local sources, he said.

HOLLINGER is required to compute the rates for local school districts under provisions of state law.

Owners of a \$25,000 home here will pay about \$396 in taxes to the city, county, school districts, and other special districts. That is about \$6 less than last year's bill—provided the assessed valuation has not increased since last year.

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Custodian to Administrator

Educator Has Long and Colorful Career



OTTO MASON
Now in Torrance

A man who at one time doubled in brass as school bus driver and classroom teacher has been named supervisor of maintenance and operations of the Torrance Unified School District.

Otto Mason, who began his colorful school business career as a custodian while attending night school more than 20 years ago, was appointed by the Board of Education to fill the position vacated earlier this month by LeRoy "Dutch" Aldershof.

A renowned authority on custodial training, Mason presently holds a master's degree in education and was business manager of Temple

City schools for more than a decade. He has written three sets of custodial handbooks and has conducted training program and institutes on custodial supervision for the California School Employees Association, California State College at Los Angeles, and for seven Southern California counties.

MASON entered the school business in 1943 after having owned and operated a mountain camp, a service station tire business, and having been employed as carpenter, roofer, and painter. Before joining the Azusa school district he had served for four years as a member of the

Board of Education of the Azusa City School District.

During his four years with Azusa district, Mason was responsible for all the custodial, gardening maintenance, and transportation in the district. After qualifying for his bachelor's degree by attending evening and Saturday classes, he combined teaching with his bus driving duties for one year.

When he accepted employment with Temple City schools as a fifth grade teacher in 1947, he continued to drive the school bus before and after school. In the summertime he swapped his teacher's hat for a painting

cap and painted for two school districts.

In 1949 he received a master's degree in education and became a teacher-vice principal.

Combining two careers, in the summer of 1950 he served as a principal of Cloverly School and supervisor of buildings and grounds. He gave up his principalship in February, 1954, to accept the post of business manager for Temple City schools.

Counties for which he has conducted training institute programs include: Riverside, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Fresno, Range, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

Trash Collection Delayed . . .

Rubbish collections in Torrance will be one day later than usual next week because of the Labor Day holiday, Walter M. Nollac, director of public works, said today. Nollac said normal Monday stops will be made on Tuesdays and crews will work Saturday. Normal schedules will be maintained the following week, despite the Admission Day holiday on Friday, Sept. 9.

Torrance Man Killed . . .

The body of a 29-year-old man who had lived in Torrance for about a week was found Sunday in the wreckage of his car near Mt. Baldy Village. Dead is Ernest Eugene Stoup, who had moved to Torrance from Long Beach only last week. Stoup was found by a Forest Service patrol about 9:30 a.m. Sunday. His car plunged 600 feet off the highway about six miles west of Mt. Baldy Village.

Newsman Dies in Crash . . .

Captain Max Schumacher, pilot of radio station KMPC's "Airwatch" helicopter, and four other persons were killed late yesterday afternoon in a mid-air collision near Dodger Stadium. Schumacher's helicopter collided with a Los Angeles Police Department helicopter and burst into flames as it hit the ground. Two passengers in Schumacher's helicopter and two Los Angeles police officers died in the crash. Mrs. Vincent McGuckin, governor of the Southwest Legal Secretaries Association, recently had accompanied Captain Max on one of his flights over Southland freeways. The story of that flight and one of last pictures taken of the dead pilot are in today's Press-Herald society section.